

# Town of Sandisfield

Select Board  
March 15, 2022

Minutes for Select Board Work Session held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon, Ralph Morrison, John Burrows, Mike Morrison, Eric Pachulski, Matt Pachulski, and Roger Brown by remote

## **1. Discuss FY23 budget planning**

Roger Brown lists the goals that need to be addressed with compiling the budget. Firstly, someone needs to reach out to all the departments who have yet to turn in a budget to request they submit one as soon as possible. Capital requests need to be addressed, including how broadband will be paid for. A levy limit needs to be determined and who will determine this figure needs to be established. Roger suggests conducting a presentation going over the budget prior to Town Meeting.

It's clarified that capital/ one-time purchases made in FY22 are still included as budget items to compare from year to year. However, they will be zeroed out since that money has already been spent.

The Select Board goes over the Fire, Police and Emergency budgets. The Select Board requests a breakdown of all the training that is necessary; this information will assist with the budget process for the next fiscal year. Ralph can provide this information within a few months.

The Fire Dept. / Ambul Maint budget line is expected to go over budget this fiscal year. This budget is very unpredictable because emergencies are always unforeseen. This figure has gone over budget for two consecutive years, so it would be reasonable to increase it.

The Fire Department is requesting a new fire truck for \$600,000 and up to an additional \$100,000 for the operating equipment to make the truck service ready. A used truck will not fulfill the needs of the town. Currently, Sandisfield's fire truck has an invalid ISO rating, which is determined by the Insurance Services Office and provided to insurance companies which subsequently affects the rate of homeowner's insurance. Mike reports while there is only 35,000 miles on the vehicle, there is very little value left in the current firetruck. The Fire Department will provide a quote as soon as possible.

Mike notes the Fire Department is training new volunteers, and hopes some of these young people are willing to take on some of the more involved positions in the future, including Fire Chief. Should no one want to take on these positions, a full-time Fire Department will need to be hired, which will cost the town not just in salaries, but benefits as well. Mike suggests requiring all full-time town employees to be an EMT and/or volunteer fireman. The Select Board agrees this could be a good incentive for the DPW to get some extra money and will propose this possibility to the union.

Mike expresses concerns that they are vulnerable to losing people to other towns or positions that are offering more money.

The memorial day parade budget has increased because there will be a barbeque after the parade.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

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George Riley

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Alex Bowman

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Steve Seddon